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## **FEDERAL AGENCIES JOIN FORCES WITH MINNESOTA HOUSING IN OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PUSH TO REDUCE REGULATORY BURDEN ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPERS**

*Federal rental alignment initiative eliminates duplicate physical inspection requirements*

**November 14, 2011** [St. Paul, MN] – Today, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Minneapolis Field Office Director Dexter Sidney, United States Department of Rural Development State Director Colleen Landkamer and Minnesota Housing Commissioner Mary Tingerthal announced an interagency agreement to reduce duplicate physical inspections of local subsidized affordable housing, allowing developers and owners to focus on delivering more housing and resources to those in need.

As part of the Obama Administration's [commitment to better coordinate federal rental policy](#), HUD, Treasury and USDA are piloting programs in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon and Washington to avoid duplicate inspections and reduce regulatory burdens for rental housing that is subsidized through more than one federal agency. Developers and owners often work with several federal agencies to house the lowest-income tenants. In the past this meant duplicate requirements and extra paperwork.

"This initiative is an important step forward in the administration's desire to streamline government policies and build strong inter-agency partnerships to serve the American public as cost effectively and efficiently as possible," said Dexter Sidney, HUD's Minneapolis Field Office Director. "It is an excellent example of HUD partnering with federal and state agencies to eliminate burdensome requirements and provide seamless coordination for our customers."

"Any time we improve the efficiency of a government process, and reduce the burden on our property owners and developers – that's a success," said USDA Rural Development's Minnesota Director Colleen Landkamer. USDA Rural Development is proud to make this agreement with our colleagues at Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Treasury, for we know that reducing duplication between our agencies frees up time and resources that we can better spend providing affordable housing to those who need it most."

The new partnership estimates eliminating duplicative inspections that may result in more than 20,000 fewer inspections per year at an annual savings of more than \$9 million for HUD. In addition, estimated savings to property owners, operators, developers, investors and lenders could total more than \$45 million per year.

"We have worked very closely with our partners at HUD and Rural Development and are happy to be a part of this innovative pilot," said Mary Tingerthal, Commissioner of Minnesota Housing. "I look forward to continuing to find new ways to reform government and better meet the needs of our partners who help deliver affordable housing to Minnesota and ultimately our residents who call these developments home."

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In response to the [White House's Domestic Policy Council](#) request for better coordinated federal rental policy, HUD, USDA Rural Development, Treasury and Minnesota Housing have worked together since April to craft a memorandum of understanding that aligns the often burdensome program requirements of different affordable rental housing government programs. The MOU to be approved by HUD, Treasury, and USDA Rural Development is an administrative solution that better aligns state and federal affordable rental housing program policies.

*HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes: utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination; and transform the way HUD does business. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) and <http://espanol.hud.gov>. You can also follow HUD on twitter [@HUDnews](#), on facebook at [www.facebook.com/HUD](http://www.facebook.com/HUD), or sign up for news alerts on [HUD's News Listserv](#).*

*USDA Rural Development has invested over \$2.5 billion throughout Minnesota since 2009. Financing is available for housing, infrastructure, job creation and business development. To learn more about Rural Development programs, visit [www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn).*

*Minnesota Housing finances and advances affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate income Minnesotans to enhance quality of life and foster strong communities. Minnesota Housing invests more than \$1.4 billion in affordable housing each biennium with total Agency-wide assets of \$3.6 billion as of June 30, 2011. Connect with us at [www.mnhousing.gov](http://www.mnhousing.gov), [facebook.com/minnesotahousing](http://facebook.com/minnesotahousing), and on Twitter [@mnhousing](#).*

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